National Consumer Forum

3018. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Consumer Forum and the Fora in the States are not functioning effectively due to the lack of facilities including ministerial staff;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have been filed and disposed off by both the National and States Consumer Forum during the last three years; and

(c) what facilities are planned to be provided to make them work effectively and what would be the required budgetary support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in the States and UTs and their effective functioning rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, to strengthen the infrastructure for effective functioning of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in the States and UTs, Central Government has provided a one time financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs per State Commission during 1995-97. Similarly, the responsibility of setting up of the National Commission and its effective functioning rests with the Central Government. Necessary infrastructure including supporting staff and funds have been provided to the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission for its effective functioning.

(b) As per the information made available by the National Commission, the number of cases filed in and disposed off by the National Commission and the State Commissions during the last three years is 1,80,604 and 1,40,141 respectively.

Starvation deaths

3019. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died in each State due to starvation during the year 2001-02 and the six months from April 1st, 2002; and

(b) what assistance was given to the families of those who have died due to starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No State Government has reported such deaths during the year 2001-02 and in the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

Representation of PIOs in the Rajya Sabha

†3020. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to grant representation in the Rajya Sabha to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) staying abroad and who are still citizens of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Threat from Pakistani anti-ballistic missile system

3021. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is likely to acquire anti-ballistic missile system worth 1.5 billion dollars;

(b) if so, to what extent this is likely to affect India's defence preparedness; and

(c) what steps have been taken to face the challenge?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.